



FACT SHEET

USAID ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES

USAID assists Philippine partners in five areas:

1. Economic reform and governance
2. Conflict resolution in Mindanao
3. Family planning, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases
4. Environmental governance and energy
5. Access to quality education

USAID/Philippines also respond to humanitarian emergencies such as natural disasters.

ECONOMIC REFORM AND GOVERNANCE

Purpose: Promote investment, job-creation, and poverty reduction by addressing corruption, weak rule of law, fiscal and financial deficiencies, and anti-competitive barriers.

Judicial Efficiency Improved. USAID assists the Supreme Court, lower courts, and community-based dispute resolution mechanisms to improve judicial efficiency and increase access to justice.

- Reduced court delay and backlogs through the promotion of court-referred mediation & other forms of alternative dispute resolution and the strengthening of the Judicial and Bar Council.
- Enhanced capacity of the courts to render timely and quality decisions through the use of advisory opinion and the strengthening of continuing education for judges.
- Improved judicial accountability through strengthening the legal education system and supporting the implementation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- Improved access to justice, especially for the poor, through strengthening community-based dispute resolution mechanisms & citizen feedback mechanisms.
- More active and substantive participation in the development of policy related to anti-terrorism and anti-corruption through multi-sectoral dialogues.

Government Policy and Administration Improved. USAID assists Philippine institutions that undertake programs to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability.

- Strengthened local ownership of economic policy reform.
- Improved management and revenue generation at the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs.
- More transparent and efficient public sector expenditure management and government procurement.
- Strengthened ability to combat money laundering.
- Improved ability to more effectively administer elections.
- Increased capacity to fight trafficking in persons.
- Improved local government financial management and planning.

Innovations in Trade and Investment Programs Promoted. Philippine leaders have used USAID's assistance in successful efforts to create innovative structures for investment in infrastructure, making government regulations more transparent, and allowing fuller participation in international trade and investment.

- Modernization of import valuation and post entry audit at the Bureau of Customs.
- Deepened liberalization of agricultural policy.
- More energetic protection of intellectual property rights, including plant variety protection.
- Increased competition in shipping, air transport and telecommunications.
- Improved investment and efficiency in infrastructure.
- Rationalized and modernized financial and capital markets.

CONFLICT MITIGATION

Purpose: Help consolidate peace in Mindanao and expand economic opportunity for its entire people.

Reintegration of Former Combatants. Through its **Livelihood Enhancement and Peace (LEAP) Program** (and LEAP's predecessor programs), USAID has assisted about 28,000 former MNLF combatants to become commercial level producers of corn, rice, or seaweed. USAID could implement a similar package for the MILF, upon signing of an MILF-GRP peace agreement.

Economic Opportunities. Through its **Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program**, USAID is carrying out a wide range of activities aimed at accelerating economic growth on Mindanao and ensuring that as many of Mindanao's 20 million people as possible benefit from that growth. GEM facilitates transactions linking producers and markets in Mindanao with foreign and domestic investors, markets, and technology; supports crop enhancement programs, development of business support organizations, small to medium scale infrastructure and policy reforms to improve the business and investment climate; supports conflict resolution mechanisms; and improves governance and education in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Microfinance. USAID is working with large numbers of Rural Banks and credit cooperatives in Mindanao to assist those institutions develop the capability to profitably serve the microenterprise market.

Local Governance. Under the **Transparent Accountable Governance Project**, USAID is providing assistance to increase transparency and accountability at the local level and to improve public service delivery in the ARMM and throughout Mindanao. USAID also supports the **Barangay Justice Service System Project** to develop local capacity for alternative dispute resolution, improving access to justice for marginalized groups.

HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

Purpose: Achieve desired family size, improve maternal and child health, and prevent the rapid increase of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

Strengthening LGU Health Services. GOP health facilities provide contraceptives and counseling to 70% of the family planning users in the country. USAID assistance improves the quality and reach of services provided by local health facilities. Working with the DOH and local governments, USAID supports the **Matching Grants Program** and the **Sentrong Sigla Movement** to improve client access to quality family planning services at the rural health units and the barangay health stations nationwide. USAID is also carrying out an infectious disease program to control the incidence of TB and combating the growing complacency regarding the threat of HIV/AIDS by supporting the monitoring of HIV/AIDS cases and education efforts to groups at highest risk of contracting the disease.

Improving Private Sector Provision of Health Services. The role of the private sector in the delivery of family planning services has remained virtually untapped. USAID is helping expand private sector participation in family planning promotion and service delivery, as well as in tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment. USAID supports the **FriendlyCare Foundation** and the **Well-Family Midwife Network** of clinics providing affordable quality primary health care and family planning services to the working poor.

Increasing Social Acceptance of Family Planning. A strong health care service delivery program, including family planning, requires a strong enabling environment. USAID is taking the lead in mainstreaming family planning as a social norm and increasing community acceptance that will lead to greater access to and better acceptance of family planning and maternal and child health services.

Improving Financing, Policy and Contraceptive Self-reliance. Towards a sustainable supply of contraceptives, USAID works with the DOH, the private sector and other donors to determine the best strategy to ensure contraceptive security, improve service provision and assure sustainable financing for information, services and products to facilitate delivery of family planning, maternal and child health services, TB and HIV/AIDS services in the Philippines. This effort is critical given data from the 2000 census, which reported that the annual population growth rate has increased from 2.32 percent in 1995 to 2.36 percent in 2000 (3.86 percent in ARMM), resulting in a 2003 population estimate of 81 million.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Purpose: Productive, Life Sustaining, Natural Resources Protected.

Environmental Governance. USAID focuses its assistance to strengthen the ability of national and local government units and communities to address critical threats to the country's forests and coastal resources, including over-fishing and use of destructive fishing practices, illegal logging and conversion of natural forests, and unmanaged solid waste. With emphasis placed on supporting Muslim communities in Mindanao, assistance is aimed at closing open access and improving governance of natural resources through greater transparency, accountability, responsiveness and participation.

- **Improved Environmental Policies.** USAID helps key national and local government units in their efforts to identify, improve and implement priority environmental policies and laws.

- **Institution Building.** LGUs and communities receive training and follow-on technical assistance in improving the management of coastal and water resources, forests and solid waste. Training is being conducted for the judicial and legal sectors, to equip them to better enforce environmental laws. USAID also supports training of government personnel to improve the management of hazardous wastes and reduce industrial pollution.
- **Environmental Advocacy.** USAID supports the development of informational activities to help inform the public on key policy issues, and to build the political will to improve environmental management and enforcement.

Energy and Environment. USAID is supporting an open, competitive market for generating and distributing electricity, expanding the use of renewable energy and natural gas, and reducing vehicle emissions, by improving policies, strengthening regulatory capabilities, promoting private sector participation, and building public support for new initiatives.

- **Restructuring and privatization.** To improve efficiency in the power sector and increase energy security, USAID supports restructuring to encourage competition in power generation and distribution, privatization of government-owned transmission and generation assets, and the expanded use of cleaner indigenous fuels like natural gas.
- **Vehicle emissions.** USAID is encouraging the active participation of important stakeholders in the design and implementation of a nationwide vehicle safety inspection and emissions testing system.
- **Renewable energy.** USAID is building the capability of the private sector to electrify rural areas with renewable energy and to encourage local communities to participate in planning and carrying out activities to help ensure the sustainability of renewable energy investments.
- **Communication strategy.** USAID is helping our partners and civil society strengthen their ability to advocate for improved policies dealing with restructuring the power sector, reducing vehicle emissions and promoting renewable energy.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Purpose: Increase Access to Quality Education and Livelihood Skills in Selected Areas

USAID will focus on four areas: increasing community-based learning opportunities (especially in school-less conflict-affected areas); promoting the reintegration of out-of-school youth into the peaceful, productive economy; improving teaching capacity in Math, Science, and English; and reforming education policy.

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